

Increased Business Gives Dump Woes

By TRAVIS BAKER
Sun County Writer

As the owners of Ames Trash Dump on the New Belfair Highway wrestle with what to do with all the garbage they're handling, a group of its neighbors apparently are wrestling with what to do about the dump itself.

County officials have been receiving complaints from neighbors of the dump, co-owned by Mel Marler and Kenneth Crawford, for about the past month. The latest was in a letter from Bremerton lawyer John Bishop, saying his client, Alpine Evergreen Co., Inc., would bring civil action against the Ames operation if public officials do not act first.

Last week, Mrs. Billie Eder, a member of the county planning commission, said she had noticed smoke roiling out of the dump the last few times she had been past, and she initiated a planning commission study of possible problems.

And individual county commissioners and County Sanitarian Joe Weigel say they have also been getting complaints.

Ames' trouble seemed to have started July 1 when Marler and Crawford took over the disposal contract for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard. The contract meant a fantastic increase in garbage volume at the Ames dump, Weigel said. What was a small operation of about 100 cubic yards of garbage a week has now swelled to a 30 times larger dumping business, the sanitarian said.

Ames has been operating without a dump license since July 1, Weigel said, but then so are all the other dump operators in the county. All the licenses expired on June 30, he explained, and he's about a month later than usual inspecting the dumps and renewing licenses.

Any new problems that have arisen at the Ames dump will

be investigated during the mandatory inspection. Weigel said he's always found in the past that Marler and Crawford do a reasonably good job of operating the dump.

The sanitarian said he would be present at Monday's meeting of the county commissioners to map out the problems as he sees them. Marler said he would ask his partner, Crawford, to also be present.

Included with Bishop's letter on behalf of Alpine Evergreens, a tree farming business, was a petition, which included 56 names, claiming that the burning done at the dump during prevailing winds was "noxious and detrimental to health," and that an offensive odor emitted from the dump.

Marler's response when contacted by The Sun was one of mixed suspicion and surprise, but he admitted some difficul-

ties.

The main offender, he had told County Commissioner Gene Lobe, was cardboard, which doesn't burn completely before it becomes light enough to blow away, with the result smoldering bits of paper floating in the air, giving rise to fire danger worries.

But he's contracted with a Tacoma firm to take the cardboard off his hands, Marler said, eliminating that problem.

He denied that the 56 signatures, even if all were valid, represented a majority of his neighbors. "I can name 156 people out here who aren't bothered a bit," he said.

He also said he was suspicious of the motives of the man he said led the petition drive. He lives well out of the affected area, Marler said, and doesn't seem to have any obvious connection with the problem.

The dump operator associated his troubles with the start of his service to the shipyard. "I burned out here for over a year without any complaints," he said, "but all of a sudden I get the Navy contract and the complaints start."

He also took a verbal swat at Bishop's client, the tree farm. "He should talk about burning. During Christmas tree season he has a fire down there that makes mine look like a fireplace fire," Marler claimed.

All burning in Kitsap County garbage dumps must end Jan. 1, when this county's membership in the Puget Sound Air Pollution Authority becomes effective, so that portion of the problem must be solved by the dump operators regardless of what is done by local officials on the immediate complaints.

What other complaints are justified will probably be uncovered in Weigel's pending licensing inspection of the Ames operation.

August Bad, Says Sheriff

Kitsap County Sheriff Art Morken said today he's worried about the month of August.

It's the most hectic month of the year for law officers because of the great increase in juvenile misbehavior, Sheriff Morken says.

"It seems this happens every year," Morken said. "Children seem to have nothing to do, are restless and cause a great amount of vandalism, petit larceny and burglary."

The sheriff said that law enforcement agencies are overrun with complaints about juvenile behavior in August.

"We hope that all parents will take extra precaution in supervising their children this month," Morken said.

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